

# Hoosier Bryophyte and Lichen Foray

**Sponsor:** Ohio Moss and Lichen Association

**Location:** Laporte and Porter Counties, Indiana

**Dates:** Fri April 28, 2023 – Sun April 30, 2023.

**Housing:** Plenty of Motels in nearby Valparaiso and Chesterton IN. Also, nearby campgrounds

**Meeting Place and Time:** Moraine Nature Preserve Storage Building, - 285 East 650 North, Valparaiso, IN 46383; 9 AM every day.



**Location details:** From Valparaiso, go north on SR 49 to CR 600 N, turn right and then immediately left on CR 200 E. Take CR 200 E north to East CR 650 North. Turn right, the entrance to the Nature Preserve's Storage Building will be at 285 East 650 North Valparaiso, IN 46383. It will be on the north side of the road.

**Contact: Information:** Bill or Carole Schumacher. Email: [bcschumacher@msn.com](mailto:bcschumacher@msn.com). Phone/Text - cell: 614-638-4218 (bill); 614-638-3021 (carole).

**Other:** Please contact Bill or Carole to let them know you are coming to Foray and which days. If possible, please include contact information.

**Maps:** See Appendix for Maps, Location and Other Site Information

## ***Introduction***

The foray will be in the Northwest Moraine Natural Region of Indiana. This is an area of high native plant diversity and a high percentage of rare plants. No other part of the state has such a diverse and rich flora. In part this is due to factors such as topographic relief, many niches and a variety of microclimates. It is also an area where three major ecological areas meet: The prairie area, the eastern deciduous forest and the northern boreal forest. The cold waters of Lake Michigan help keep conditions cooler near the lake providing conditions for plants that normally live much further north to live in the area.

*Moraine Nature Preserve Storage Building - Red Marks the Spot!*

## **Sites**

**We will meet at Moraine Nature Preserve headquarters and garage complex at 9 am each day.** It is located ~5 miles northwest of Valparaiso. See above for location information. This will be our central gathering place and also where our scope work will be centered. It has a heated garage with windows, restroom, outlets, and kitchenette. Will have tables and chairs. Plan to bring an extension cord and power strip for scopes.

## **Friday 4/28**

### **Moraine Nature Preserve**

This is a large preserve of ~900 acres. Three main areas to explore: i) upland/ravine complex with many glacial erratics and boulders in the ravines, mature forest; ii) calcareous fen area with wooded kame; iii) mature forest with fairly rugged topography – used in past by University of Chicago for botanical education/research – donated to Preserve.

North of Valparaiso, IN, this preserve is an example of the many land forms associated with the Valparaiso Moraine. The nature preserve contains a combination of rolling ridges, steep hills, muck pockets, pot holes, and a shallow pond. Mature beech-maple forest is found on some of the uplands and ravines. Buttonbush and black willow surround a number of pot holes and ponds. Several upland areas are in various stages of succession.

Saturday 4/29

### **Ambler Nature Preserve**

This is a large boreal flat woods, just south of Lake Michigan in Laporte County, with large areas of mature trees (area 500+ acres). It has flat poorly drained soils of a coarser texture with numerous areas of vernal pools, an area with mature trees and hummocks with Sphagnum mosses in places. Trees include red maple, northern pin oak, black gum, tulip tree, and white pine.

### **Sebert Woods Nature Preserve**

This Nature Preserve (~ 40 acres), is located close to Ambler preserve (~3 miles). Contains remnant northern boreal flatwoods, mesic forest, and shrub swamp as well as their associated plant communities.

### **Wintergreen Woods Nature Preserve**

Nature Preserve beside Sebert Nature Preserve (~23 acres). It is a remnant northern boreal flatwoods natural community. During wet seasons most of the preserve has standing water, due to poor drainage and the numerous “tip-ups” that occur when trees topple over during wind storms.

Sunday 4/30

### **Little Calumet Headwaters Nature Preserve**

This 108 acre nature preserve is located within the Red Mill County Park. This preserve is located on and protects some of the headwaters of the Little Calumet River. The area contains seeps, spring runs, and upland forest.

### **John Merle Coulter Nature Preserve**

This state-dedicated nature preserve of 80+ acres features a complex of sand prairie, oak savanna, and wetlands. More than 400 species of plants have been identified, many of them state-listed. This preserve is adjacent to National and Indiana State Dunes Park. Although these parks have been studied intensively, this preserve is fairly new and has no bryophyte or lichen records yet.

### **Lodging**

There is plentiful lodging in nearby Valparaiso and Chesterton. There are also camp grounds nearby. In addition, Indiana DNR staff have offered permission to set up tents around the Moraine Nature Preserve headquarters area if anyone is interested. Restrooms and water will be available.

# Appendix

## Maps & Site Information



**Bryophyte & Lichen**

**Foray**

**Laporte & Porter**

**Counties - Indiana**

**April 28-April 30  
2023**



**Ohio Moss and  
Lichen Association**

## Sites & Information

1. John Coulter Nature Preserve
2. Ambler Nature Preserve
3. Wintergreen Woods Nature Preserve
4. Sebert Woods Nature Preserve
5. Moraine Nature Preserve
6. Little Calumet Headwaters Nature Preserve

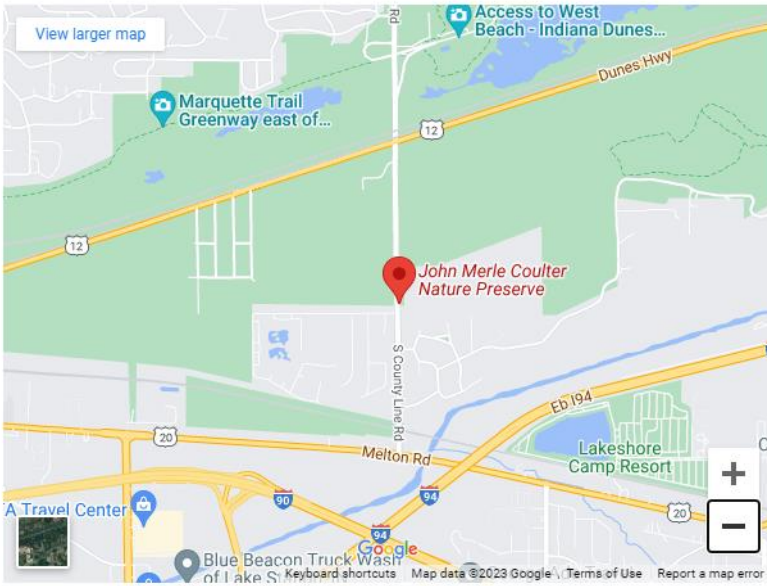


# 1. John Merle Coulter Nature Preserve

Latitude/Longitude 41.6019 -87.2223

## Porter County

Location and Access: Pull-off parking and (old railroad bed) trail. From US 20 (Melton Rd), on the north side of Lake Station, turn north onto County Line Rd and go about 0.5 mile to 5th Ave. Park along 5th Ave. Enter the preserve from County Line Rd.



John Merle Coulter Nature Preserve is located on the northwest side of Portage, between US 12 and US 20 on County Line Road.

A gravel parking lot is located on the east side of County Line Road, just south of the Monosol plant. A loop trail traverses the property.



## 2. Ambler Nature Preserve

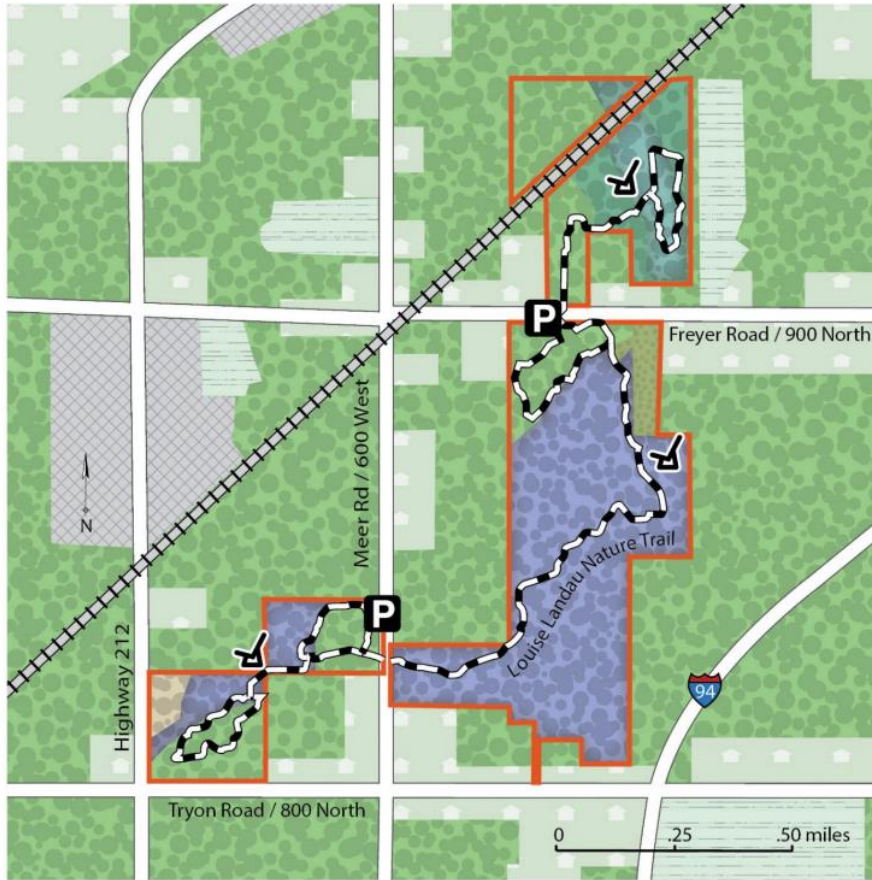
Latitude/Longitude 41.7288647 -86.8205524;

Laporte County

Location: Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve is located on the east side of Michigan City, south of US 12 on Meer Rd.



### Trail Map Ambler Flatwoods Michigan City, Indiana



Acres: 521

Trail Length: 4.07 miles

Terrain: Flat, Wet



### 3. Wintergreen Woods Nature Preserve

Latitude/Longitude 41.7420462, -86.7698726

Laporte County

Location: From the east side of Michigan City, go north on SR 212 to CR 900 N (about 2.7 miles). Turn right (east). The road jogs left, then right just before the preserve, becoming CR 925 N. The preserve is just past the intersection of CR 375 W and CR 925 N, on the north side of the road.



# 4. Sebert Woods Nature Preserve

Latitude/Longitude 41.7408213 -86.77108

Laporte County

Location: This preserve is just past the intersection of CR 375 W and CR 925 N, on the south side of the road. It is directly south of Wintergreen Woods Nature Preserve (see Wintergreen's description for further location details).

## SEBERT WOODS COUNTY PARK

La Porte County Parks

Sebert Woods County Park  
La Porte County Parks Department  
www.laportecountyparks.org  
3608 West 925 North • Michigan City, IN 46360  
Springfield Township, La Porte County  
219-325-8315 • Fax: 219-325-8317



A composite image featuring a map and two photographs. The map shows the location of Sebert Woods Nature Preserve, bounded by 375 West to the west and 925 North to the north. A parking area 'P' is marked. The trail is shown in green, with 'The Sand Box' in orange and 'Wetland' in blue. A legend box indicates '1 PAPER BIRCH TRAIL 0.5 MILES DIRT TRAIL WITH ONE HILL moderate'. Two photographs are included: one of a dirt trail with a wooden signpost and another of a brown mushroom with white spots.

375 West

← TO MICHIGAN CITY

925 North

P

→ TO HWY 39



1 PAPER BIRCH TRAIL  
0.5 MILES  
DIRT TRAIL WITH  
ONE HILL

moderate

The Sand Box

Wetland

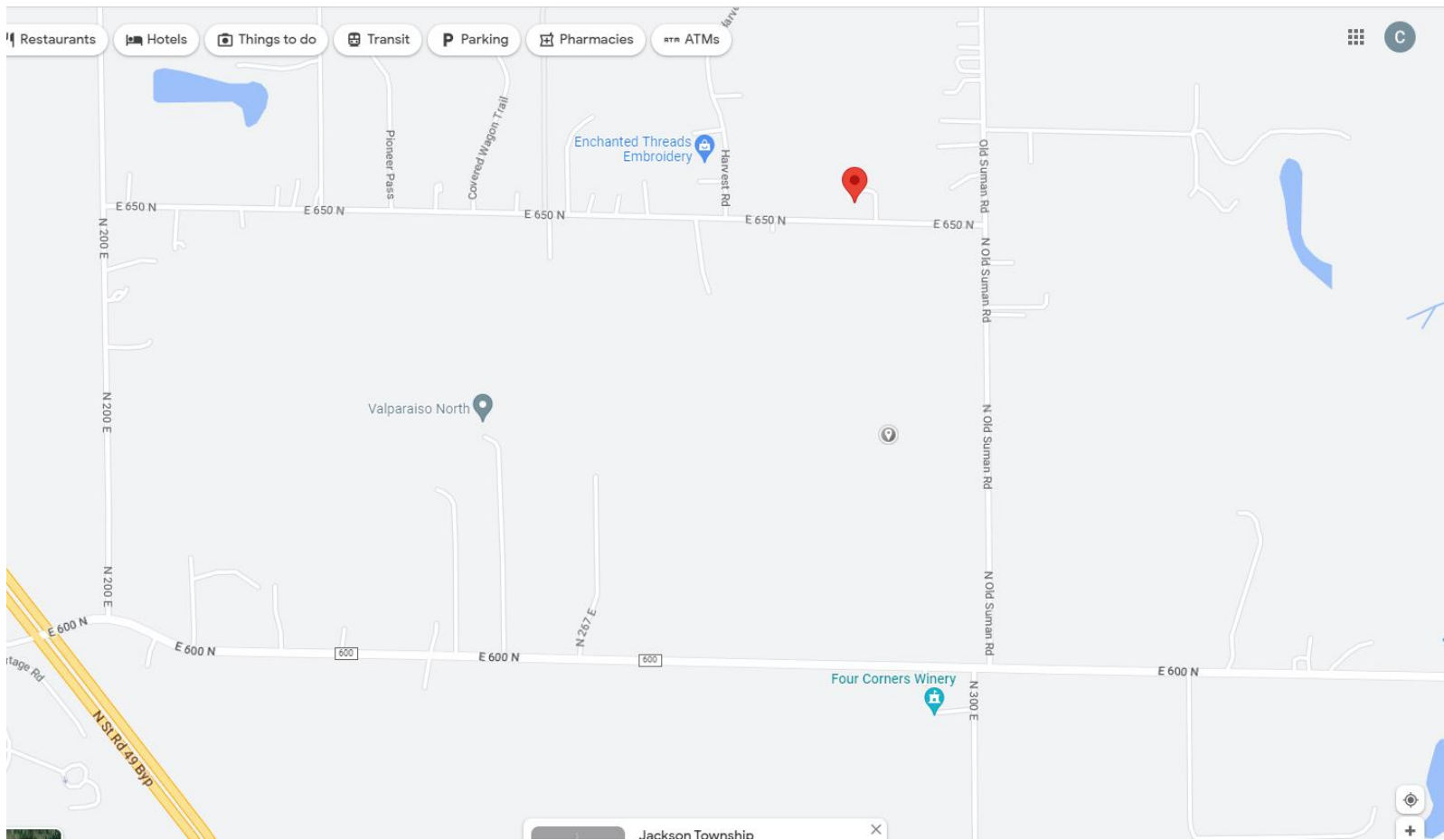


## 5. Moraine Nature Preserve

Latitude/Longitude 41.5236404, -87.0181699

Porter County

Location: From Valparaiso, go north on SR 49 to CR 600 N, turn right and then immediately left on CR 200 E. Take CR 200 E north to East CR 650 North. Turn right, the entrance to the Nature Preserve's Storage Building will be at 285 East 650 North Valparaiso, IN 46383. It will on the north side of the road.



## 6. Little Calumet Nature Preserve

Latitude/Longitude 41.6032284,-86.8823053

Laporte County

Location: Parking and trail. This preserve is due west of LaPorte. From the north, take US 421 south to the intersection of CR 100 N and Holmesville Rd, at Beattys Corner. Turn left (southeast) onto Holmesville Rd and go about 2.5 miles. The entrance and parking are on the left. From LaPorte, take SR 2 west about 7.5 miles to S. Holmesville Rd. Turn north (right) and go about 2.5 miles. The entrance and parking lot are on the right.

